GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Andhra Pradesh Forest Department – Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), Kadapa Range under Rule 24 read with Rule 20 of A.P.C.S. (CC & A) Rules, 1991 – Punishment of "10% (ten percent) cut in pension for a period of five (5) years" – Imposed – Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.NO. 21 **Dated.17/04/2023.**

Read the following:

1. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Ref.No.12493/2017/A&DC -3(ii), dated 08.02.2022.
2. Memo.No.352/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 31.05.2022.
3. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.No.12493/2017/A&DC-3, dated 05.12.2022.
4. Letter.No.352/Sec.IV/2/2021, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 20.01.2023.
5. From the Secretary, APPSC, Vijayawada, File No.GAD03-APPS0DCC/23/-DC.SEC-PPSC (Computer No.1978648). dated 14.03.2023.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has informed that the following Article of Charge was issued to Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer, Maddimadugu Section, Kadapa Range of Kadapa (T) Division by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kadapa in Rc.No.3208/2018/A10, dated 18.11.2019 under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991:

Article of Charge:-"That Sri P.Balaiah, Forest Section Officer, Maddimadugu Section of Kadapa Range neglected his legitimate duties and failed in execution & supervision of the works in Kadapa Range during the year 2017-18 which resulted in mis-appropriation of Government funds to a tune of Rs.1,73,606/- finally lead to booking of expenditure without execution of works in the field by submitting false and fabricated vouchers, M. Books and cash book in violation of Articles 5, 273, 294, 300, 301, and 302 of the Andhra Pradesh Financial Code."

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of AoC on 18.11.2019 and submitted his written defence statement on 19.11.2019. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur issued orders, appointing the Conservator of Forests, Kurnool as Common Inquiring Authority and the Divisional Forest Officer, Kadapa (T) Division as Presenting Officer, in the Proc.No.12493/2017/

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Vig-1(i) & (ii), dated 26.10.2020 for conducting regular inquiry in respect of three charged officers including Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer (Retd.).

3. The Inquiry Officer i.e., Conservator Forests, Kurnool Circle, has submitted findings along with connected case record in the Rc.No.3917/2015/M1, dated 01.04.2021, wherein the Inquiry Officer has concluded that the Charge leveled against the Charged Officer is **proved** as the executed works are not up to the mark. Hence, the Charged Officer is responsible for the deviations.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in Ref.No.12493/2017/A&DC-3, dated 29.04.2021, for submission of further defence. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the final notice on 05.07.2021 and submitted his further defence statement, dated 14.07.2021, wherein he did not submit any new / fresh / valid points.

5. The Charged Officer, Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer has retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 30.11.2019. Hence, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. The Charged Officer has remitted his share amount of Rs.43,401/- to the Government account. Hence, there is no recovery on the part of the Charged Officer.

7. On examination of the issue, it has been provisionally decided to impose a penalty of "10% cut in pension for a period of five (5) years" against Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer (Retd.) under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in Memo 2nd read above, a Show-cause notice was issued to the Charged Officer duly indicating the quantum of punishment. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has submitted the served duplicate copy with dated acknowledgement to the Show-cause notice and further defence statement of the Charged Officer along with remarks as furnished by the Conservator of Forests, Kurnool. Among other facts, the Conservator of Forests, Kurnool in his remarks has reported that there are no fresh points and valid reasons in the final defense of the charged officer for consideration.

8. After careful examination of the issue, Government have decided to confirm the provisional decision to impose a punishment of "10% cut in pension for a period of five (5) years" against Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer (Retd.) under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

9. On communication, in the letter 5th read above, the Secretary APPSC has informed that Commission agreed with the proposal of the Government, to impose the punishment of "10% (ten percent) cut in

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pension for a period of five (5) years" against Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer (Retd), Kadapa Range and advised accordingly.

10. After careful examination of the entire matter, Government hereby order to impose a punishment of 10% (ten percent) cut in pension for a period of five (5) years" against Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer (Retd), earlier Forest Section Officer, Maddimadugu Section, Kadapa Range, under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules 1980.

11. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, Guntur shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri P. Balaiah, Forest Section Officer (Retd), Kadapa Range (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF,A.P., Guntur)
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur. w.e (Connected record File.No.3917/2015/M1, pages 1-342).

Copy to
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The OSD to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines & Geology).
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1663115)

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER